

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John M. Siragusa, #46,174, on 3/26/09.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

3. **Claims 7, 11, and 12** have been **cancelled**.
4. **Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, and 10** have been **amended** as follow:

CLAIM 1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A fluid connection assembly for establishing a connection with a fluid supply pipe extending from a rear face of a panel to a front face of the panel, the assembly comprising;

a fluid conduit including an interior passage engageable with the fluid supply pipe and a threaded portion;

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a support member receivable onto the fluid supply pipe and into an opening through the panel, the support member including a recess ending in a face followed by a sleeve with an opening for receiving the fluid supply pipe;[[,]]

a rotatable sleeve receivable onto the fluid supply pipe and through the opening in the support member, the rotatable support sleeve including a flange;

a threaded member supported between the flange of the rotatable sleeve and the face of the support member, the threaded member rotatable relative to the support member for engaging the threaded portion of the fluid conduit;[[,]] and

a sealing element deformable in response ~~responsive~~ to tightening of the threaded member onto the threaded portion of the fluid conduit to establish a seal between the fluid supply pipe and the fluid conduit;

wherein the sealing element is disposed about the fluid supply pipe between the rotatable sleeve on a first axial end and the fluid conduit.

CLAIM 3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The fluid connection assembly according to claim 1[[2]], wherein the fluid conduit is adapted to have a shower head or hose connected to it.

CLAIM 4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The fluid connection assembly according to claim 1,[[2]] including a cover member, adapted to engage with the assembly and to conceal the assembly.

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CLAIM 9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The fluid connection assembly according to claim 1, wherein the fluid conduit connection member comprises an a fluid conduit elbow having external threads on each end.

CLAIM 10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A fluid connection assembly for establishing fluid communication with a fluid supply pipe extending through an opening in a fixed panel, the fluid connection assembly comprising:

a support attachable to the panel, wherein the support includes a recess receivable within an the opening for the fluid supply pipe and a plate extending radially outward from the recess;

a threaded member supported on the support and rotatable relative to the support;

a conduit including a threaded portion engageable with the threaded member for establishing fluid communication with the fluid supply pipe; ~~and~~

a seal that is compressible in response ~~responsive~~ to the threaded portion of the conduit being threadably engaged by the threaded member; and

a sleeve disposed between the fluid supply pipe and the opening in the support for rotatably supporting the threaded member;

wherein the seal is disposed around the fluid supply pipe and between the sleeve and the conduit.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE:

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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With regard to claim 1, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a fluid connection assembly with the combination of a fluid conduit including an interior passage and a threaded portion; a support member including a recess ending in a face followed by a sleeve with an opening; a rotatable sleeve receivable through the opening in the support member and including a flange; a threaded member supported between the flange of the rotatable sleeve and the face of the support member and rotatable relative to the support member for engaging the threaded portion of the fluid conduit; and, a sealing element disposed between the rotatable sleeve on a first axial end and the fluid conduit and deformable in response to tightening of the threaded member onto the threaded portion of the fluid conduit.

With regard to claim 10, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a fluid connection assembly with the combination of a support including a recess receivable within an opening and a plate extending radially outward from the recess; a threaded member supported on the support and rotatable relative to the support; a conduit including a threaded portion engageable with the threaded member; a sleeve disposed between a fluid supply pipe and the opening in the support for rotatably supporting the threaded member; and, a seal disposed between the sleeve and the conduit that is compressible in response to the threaded portion of the conduit being threadably engaged by the threaded member.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fannie Kee whose telephone number is (571) 272-1820. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Aaron M Dunwoody/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3679

/F. K./
Examiner, Art Unit 3679
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